Poland, and I think I am the only Member in this House who has visited every single Communist country except Albania. So, I am sometimes a bit dazed at the slightly shop-worn vocabulary that our friends opposite use which has been jettisoned long ago in socialist countries.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : They want to weaken our country.

SHRI K .NATWAR SINGH : And as the Prime Minister has said we have the self-confidence to take the technology from wherever it is available. I think, we must realise that we are, perhaps, the only country in the Third world and in the Non-aligned world which is technologically so advanced as to make use of the high-tech that is available in the United States and the Western Europe and Japan. And we should be pleased that we can use it. Whether it comes from the Soviet Union or the United States or Germany, what does it matter ? The assumption that we are not safeguarding our interests, I must say, is most unfair to the people of this country and the Government. Now, with regard to the point the hon. Member has raised about the areas of agricultural research and all that, quite honestly I am not really competent to reply. But I require notice for this and we will give satisfaction to the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Arid zone research is being done in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, may I just add to that ? While we have done a lot of work and we have the capability, there is always room for learning more, and this is what these exchanges are about. It is only when we have done our own work and we have our own capabilities that we are capable of getting these things from others and also capable of protecting ourselves in case in such exchanges other ideas come to the minds of those that are involved in it. And it is only with this experience that we can do this.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Sir, the Prime Minister's answer was not clear to me. So, I want to put a simple question. What was the type of super-computer we have asked for ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : How does the computer come in ?

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : I am talking of the super-computer. What was the type of super-computer we have asked for and what type of super-computer they have offered to us ? Is it the same thing ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has answered it.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : No, no, that is why I am asking. I did not understand. That is why I am putting the question in a simple way. What was the type of computer ? (*Interruptions*). Sir, I am asking the question, what was the type of computer, super-computer, we have asked for and what was the type of super-computer they have offered to us ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : At different stages we asked for different machines, that is the truth of the matter.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : No, what did we ask for at the last stage ? We have come to an agreement.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : When I went to the United States we asked for one particular machine, which was not available to any non-COCOM country at that time. They made that available to us. Then our scientists said, no, we want XMP-24. Then we started asking for XMP-24. They gave us XMP-14. While the talks for XMP-14 started, one group of scientists, only one group, started saying that they wanted 24. But when I sat down with both groups of scientists, the major need was for 14 and not for 24. Let me assure the House that two 14s are more important and more useful to us than one 24. Let me be very clear about that. And if we were getting one 24, I would not have bought the machine at all. Let me assure that also to the House.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM : In that case . . . (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 182.

Production of a Jet Fighter by Pakistan

*182. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is ready to produce a new jet

fighter, as reported in the 'Newstime' dated September 16, 1987; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government of India in view of such a development by her neighbouring country ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government keep a constant watch on acquisitions intended by neighbouring countries that have a bearing on our security. The information that Pakistan is likely to produce a new jet fighter has been taken into account in planning our defence measures.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very sorry to say that the Government is not willing to give any information to this House. I would like to say with all the force at my command that this Government is taking the Parliament for a ride. I have asked for specific information and specific steps and the answer given is, we are watching and we will be doing everything that is possible. Is that the answer ? That is not the way the Parliament has to be treated. I would like to know whether the LCA which could have been an answer for the type of capability that is being built by Pakistan, is on the anvil, has it been approved, and if so, what are the details about it, and how are we going to meet this problem ? This is my first question.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, if that was his question, he should have put it straightaway and I would have given the answer. But why does he accuse the Government. You are accusing the Government of taking you for a ride. On what basis ? If this was your question, what is your question in (b) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government of India in view of such a development by her neighbouring country Now, there are many steps. (*Interruptions*).

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : You have not mentioned even one step.

SHRI K. C. PANT : There are limits to which we can divulge in the House in such matters. (*Interruptions*). I am still on my feet. All I am trying to say is that it is not just a question of aircraft. It is certainly a question of aircraft, what is the role of this particular plane, if it is a deep-interceptor plane, what is your experience to that ? It is a question of missiles, radars, and so on and so forth. Now, do you want me to spell out on the floor of this House the entire details ? (*Interruptions*) Prof. Lakshmanna, you will have the opportunity of asking another question after this. Please have some patience. I appreciate the point that the House should get information as far as possible on defence matters. I would agree with him on that. But when he asks very pointed specific questions saying that all right, now so and so has such and such, now what is your counter, spell it out in detail, do you think it should be spelt out in detail, or should you take the Government's assurance on such matters and certainly I can sit down and explain to you what is what and I have no objection. But I think you should appreciate that beyond a point to say something will not be proper, because after all it is not confined to the Members of the House, it goes outside. This is the only thing I want him to appreciate.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : While volunteering to answer supplementaries, the Minister of External Affairs did say that as a part of the discussions which took place between our Prime Minister and the U.S. officials, one of the things decided was that the LCA would be with the assistance of U.S.A. He volunteered to say it when we asked.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He said, without engine we are getting.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : The type of jet which is being produced by Pakistan would be in collaboration with both U.S.A. and China, as far as we understand. If that is the case, how is it that he is going to have a defence pact—and how defence combating on the part of India would be ensured—with a collaboration with the same agency which is trying to arm the other party ? Therefore, instead of simply saying that we are trying to do everything,

and everything is good and everything is alright, we would like to know specifically what are those steps and how they are taking guard against such possibilities of this jet.

SHRI K. C. PANT : It is quite true that the programme to manufacture a new jet fighter, as has been reported in the Newstime, is a joint venture of Pakistan, U.S.A. and China. So far as the LCA is concerned, the LCA is a programme which is at the stage of project definition. Now, the two planes are generationally different. If you look at the LCA of the later generation, it is likely to come up by mid '90s and the other by early '90s. The two are not compaarble in the sense that what we are aming at is, perhaps, more advanced.

Now, the pointed question that my friend raised is as to whether there would be any question of confusion because of America and China being together in this with Pakistan, and our getting the collaboration them. Now, at the moment, we are at the project definition phase of LCA, and here we have a consultancy agreement with AMDBA of France. There are certain areas where we can get good technology from the USA. I will spell out only a few of these areas : the composites, fly-by-wire technology, avionics etc. There are some areas in which the U.S.A. is far ahead and it is not easy to come by that technology in this advanced stage elsewhere. The whole object is, in such an exercise when you think of the future and project yourself for the next 10 or 15 years and when you plan for the next 25 years may be, because developing an advanced fighter plane or aircraft for defence purpose is a long-term expensive exercise, to do so without getting the best technology would be an exercise in futility, because by the time it comes out, and if by that time we are not at the state of art, what cover have developed will not be good enough, and not being good enough in this respect would be a very dangerous thing for the country. Therefore, we have to try to get the best technology available so that when it comes out in the distant future or the middle future, by that time it is the state of art. This is an essential thing that we have to keep in mind.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI : The hon. Minister just said that there is a long-term measure; we are developing Light Combat Aircraft. We find a little undercare as far as the engines are concerned in the sense that first we went in for RB 199 and then F 404. But the news item came from Canada last month that F-18 which are fitted with 404 engines in the last 2-3 months developed a few engine failures. I want to know whether in view of this, the Government is re-considering about the 404 engines by the latest technology collaboration, which the hon. Minister mentioned, with Dassault of France because they are manufacturing M-88 engines, and whether the Government is re-considering 404 engines and going in for M-88 engines which France is using for its aircraft. I would also like to know what progress has been made in regard to the indigenous manufacture of GTX-35 engine. What progress has been made in that ? I would like to know whether, during the visit of the Prime Minister to the U. S. recently, any discussions were held with the Americans about the composite material and fly-by-wire technology which the hon. Minister has just mentioned.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Well, so far as the GTX engine is concerned, it is under development, as my friend knows. It is under development in the DRDO. He knows about the particular research organisation where it is going on. Actual testing of this engine will take place much later. All these phases will come later. There will be proto-type phase. There will be project definition phase. It is too early for me to give all the details in relation to the development of the engine. At the moment, development is going on.

During the development, there may be modifications. There would, probably, be modifications because of the earlier modifications in the course of development. But at this point, one cannot say which would be appropriate, which are the variants which would ultimately be used.

So far as the S-404 engines are concerned, my friend knows that a contract was signed to get a certain number of F-404 engines. At this point, we have to test out the airframe configuration that we finally select. For this, we do need this engine.

The hon. Member talked about the problems the engine has encountered in Canada. All these matters are taken into account by our experts and if they feel any change is called for they will let us know. It is really for them to evaluate what kind of problems are encountered and whether they call for any review of the matter. At the moment, this is where the matter stands.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय सभापति जी, 1962 में सरकार द्वारा तैयारी न किए जाने के कारण सारे राष्ट्र को अपमान भुगतना पड़ा था। अब मैं समझता हूं कि उस इतिहास को इस देश में नहीं दोहराया जाएगा और सरकार पूरी तैयारी करेगी। मान्यवर, उत्तर में विरोधाभास है। उत्तर यह दिया गया है कि मदों पर तो नजर रखी गई है। लेकिन जो न्यूज टाइम्स में 16 सितम्बर, 1987 को छपा है, उसमें इस बात को कहा गया है--

"The aircraft is ready for production and assembly in Pakistan."

जवाब में मान्यवर, यह कहा गया है कि यह सूचना कि पाकिस्तान द्वारा नए जेट लड़ाकू विमान का निर्माण किए जाने की संभावना है। . . . .

My question is, whether the Government has any information that this aircraft is ready for production and assembly in Pakistan as reported in the 'Newstime' dated 16th September, 1987?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, according to the information with me, the indications are that they are trying to get the plane in 1991. Recently, a study has been conducted by an American firm—I think, the name of the firm is Gremma—; they have conducted the study and given them the results of that study. I think, the production phase would start hereafter because they were awaiting the study. I do not know the details of the Pakistani programme except what has come out in the Press and what is available to us.

Now, on the question of 1962, my hon. friend's perception seems to have stopped at 1962. 1962 was followed by 1965 and 1971 also.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : 1962 में जिस जमीन पर कब्जा कर लिया चीन ने, उसको आपने आज तक नहीं लिया। बात चल रही है। . . . **(व्यवधान)** . . .

SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, technology-wise, what is the quality of this aircraft in question and whether we already have in our possession proper reply to it.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, I can certainly give the details. The LCA represents a new generation of aircraft, a new generation of avionics and armament. This aircraft is expected to be way ahead of the aircraft currently in service with the Indian and Pakistani Air Forces. Therefore, it is not correct to make a comparision of F-7-M with the LCA.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has very kindly said that at a point of time we would like to produce the technology which is state of the art, but what about now? Are we having a panity with our neighbouring countries? Are we superior to them in meeting the security environments and challenges that might come? What is the position today?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, we are able to take care of whatever threat is introduced into the system by the induction of such aircraft and weaponry systems.

SHRI VISHVJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH : Sir it is well to say that we are ale to take care but unfortunately, on this subcontinent our experience is different. We have noticed that time and again Pakistan has upgraded its capability with active collaboration from its allies and we find ourselves in a bind each time we react to that. I think it is time we started taking action. We have taken action as far as early warning system was concerned. (*Interruptions*). I do not know why everybody finds it funny. (*Interruptions*). I am sorry, it has become an inadvertant gesture because I am always facing the opposition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we must appreciate the work put in by the Indian community

in the United States which has mobilised public opinion against American aid being given for purposes of upgrading the defence capability of Pakistan. Similarly, I would like to know from the Minister, when such a thing has come to our notice that a new jet fighter is going to be introduced into the airways of the sub-continent, what are we going to do about it, are we trying to take some action apart from just saying, yes, we are aware of it, we are going to produce our own LCA ? Are we going to take any further action ? Is he in touch with his colleague sitting on his left ? Is he trying to do something about it ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : My colleague on the left is a very peaceful person. I need the help of people like him for such a question. I think one should appreciate in perspective what has been done within this country in the field of defence production and defence preparedness and that has been proved on the ground, as I said, in 1965 and again in 1971. It does not need to be spelt out now but what does need to be said is that we have shifted from acquiring weapon systems from abroad to manufacturing them more and more within the country. Now this is the real strength of the country and this is the direction which has been taken not by us now but it has been taken many years ago and we have been following that direction. Our industry has deepened and widened. Our R&D network in the defence and civilian fields is today the envy of many third world countries. Let us not belittle the efforts that have been made and I see no reason at all to feel pessemistic about the outcome of these efforts. I feel that we should be confident but we should not be complacent. Complacency is bad because this is a continuing process of induction of new weapon systems and we have to take into account the fact that Pakistan has got its weapon systems very cheap, almost free, and the induction of sophisticated weapon systems on concessional rates into Pakistan does pose a problem to us, which is in addition to the other security problems. Therefore, we have to spend a little more on this. But even after taking all that into account, there should be confidence in the ability of the country to face the threat that we perceive. My friend will get a specific answer if he asks a specific question and if he asks a general question, he will get a general answer.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Sir, the Minister has stated that Pakistan is ready to produce this new Jet fighter in collaboration with U.S.A. and China. I would like to know whether Pakistan is also trying to manufacture or produce any other weapons in collaboration with China and U.S.A. I would also like to know whether Pakistan is not only acquiring sophisticated weapons from U.S.A. and other countries but is also trying to produce these Jet planes. I would also like to know whether Government of India is in touch with these countries—China and U.S.A.—not to supply weapons to Pakistan as it is trying to produce these weapons in collaboration with them.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, Pakistan has certainly acquired weapons from the U.S.A. under its military aid programme. In the last aid package of 3.2 billion dollars, the military aid package was 1.7 billion dollars. For instance, a large number of planes were acquired—I think F-16s. So certainly this is the case. That is what I mentioned in reply to an earlier question. But I do not have the full list of the weapon supplies and so on and I think it does not strictly arise from this question either.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 183.

Identification of Technology Mission

*183. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Technology Missions identified by Government for implementation of various projects aimed for improvement in the life of the rural poor, protection from diseases, weather-forecasting centres, and development of agro-meteorological services to save farmers from droughts and floods and the details of such Missions;

(b) what are the names of the locations, state-wise where these projects are likely to be undertaken;